	CHIEF OFFICER IN CONSULTATION WITH COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DELEGATED POWERS REPORT
Title	Healthy Child Programme Extension – Health Visiting and School Nursing, (Including Healthy Weight Nurses, Oral health and Infant Feeding)
Report of	Tamara Djuretic - Joint Director of Public Health and Prevention for Barnet Council and Royal Free
Wards	All
Status	Public
Enclosures	None
Officer Contact Details	Clare Slater-Robins, Senior Children and Young People Commissioner Clare.slater-robins@barnet.gov.uk

Summary

1. The Healthy Child Programme is a mandated Public Health function.
2. Following a Policy and Resources committee decision in February 2018 and a Council Officer decision in May 2019, the Healthy Child Programme services were tendered using the council procurement portal in September 2019 and 2 bids were received.
3. A Committee Chairman Delegated Powers report was published in July 2019 for a three year plus one year plus one year contract term with a c£25 Million budget.
4. One of the bids was financially non-compliant and following legal advice was disqualified. The remaining bid was evaluated and moderated according to Council procurement and legal processes.
5. The tender was awarded to the Whittington Health NHST on 6 December 2019, but following withdrawal of their tender on 8 January 2020 the service contract with CLCH was extended for 18 months, which also took into account the Coronavirus pandemic (Lockdown 1).

5. Following the extended pandemic, it is therefore necessary to extend the current contract with Central London Community Healthcare for 6 months to allow time for a new procurement process to be completed and taking into account the Coronavirus flu pandemic, which would make it difficult for Health Trusts to write bids in the immediate future.
6. The budget for the 12 months of 2021/22 would be the same as 2020/21: Health Visiting £4,100,991, School Nursing £1,234,132.92 and Oral Health £59,000. Total 12 month contract value £5,394,124.

Decisions

**The Healthy Child Programme services contract should be extended with Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust (CLCH) for a 6 month period from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 to take into account the coronavirus pandemics effect on a procurement process.
Total contract value for 12 months £5,394,124.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Following due Council procurement and legal process for a failed procurement process, an extension was granted to the current NHS provider but the pandemic has made a procurement process within the NHS landscape impossible so a further 6 months extension is required to give time for this, or other ways forward to occur.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Whittington Health submitted a bid that demonstrated its ability to deliver the Healthy Child Programme services, as specified within the specification and accompanying documents. They demonstrated that they have experience of delivering similar services within the North Central London STP footprint, in Haringey and Islington and that they share the values of Barnet council and are experienced in putting children and families first. On 8 January Whittington Health withdrew their tender leaving the services unprocured from 1 April 2020.
- 2.2 The procurement process will need to be recommenced. However, the timeline for the OJEU procurement meant that it would need to be completed during the height of the Coronavirus flu pandemic which would affect Trusts ability to focus on bid writing.
- 2.3 There will therefore need to be a further contract extension of six months from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 to allow for organisations to bid for the services and a mobilisation period.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 Do nothing was considered, but this would have meant that the service would have ceased which was not a palatable option considering the service provision is essential and mandated for children and families in Barnet.
- 3.2 In – house option was considered, but is not recommended at this time. The reasons include the risks of recruitment and retainment of NHS staff within the council; the extensive clinical governance procedures that would need to be put in place including a preparation for CQC inspection and social care readiness to receive the services.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Barnet Council commissioners will work with the current provider to ensure services are delivered in accordance with the service specification while the procurement process is undertaken.
- 4.2 The Healthy Child Programme Board will oversee the tender process to ensure safety, quality and continuation of service, which are paramount.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 One of Barnet's 2024 Corporate Plan outcomes is to improve services for children and young people and ensure the needs of children are considered in everything we do. The Healthy Child Programme contract extension will achieve population prevention aims and better integration of services at the point of delivery. This service will also help Barnet meet its priorities for reducing obesity, improving oral health, support children to have healthy start, improve school readiness and promote greater integration of services with social care, early help and children's centres. The Barnet children and young people's plan 2019 – 2023 has a vision focused on making Barnet an even better place to live for all families. The young people at the youth convention wanted improved health education and access to health support which a fully integrated model. The Healthy Child Programme contract extension will contribute to this vision.
- 5.1.2 Best Start in Life is one of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy's priority and commissioning of mandatory Healthy Child Programme contributes to this priority.
- 5.1.3 The Health and Wellbeing strategy 2021- 2025, currently being consulted on, has a priority to 'Improve children's life chances' stating that Barnet 'will improve children's life chances by supporting their health and wellbeing from very early age and through to their transition into adulthood.' The Healthy Child Programme is instrumental in helping Barnet to achieve this priority.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 The Healthy Child Programme is a mandatory service funded by the Public Health Grant.

5.2.2 The current contract extension with CLCH is set at a budget of £5,394,124 to take into account the NHS Agenda for Change uplift in pay and pensions which are not due to be centrally funded for 2020/21. The budget for the 12 months for 2021/22 has not changed and the total 12 month contract value is £5,394,124.

5.2.3 There are no TUPE implications associated with this contract extension or approach.

5.2.4 There are no staffing or IT implications.

5.3 **Legal and Constitutional References**

Under the Council's Constitution, Contract Procedure Rules (the CPR), Table A, Acceptance Process and Documentation in relation to a Procurement with a value of more than £500,000, which has been agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee via the Annual Procurement Forward Plan, is through Full Officer Delegated Powers Report of the Chief Officer in Consultation with the Chairman. Legal Advice was that the Council were able to extend the contract for a period of six months as an exceptional circumstance.

In addition, Regulation 72(1)(c) of PCRs says that contracts can be modified without a new procurement procedure where the need for modification has been brought about by circumstances which the Council could not have foreseen, the modification does not alter the overall nature of the contract, and any increase in price does not exceed 50% of the value of the original contract.

5.4 **Insight**

5.4.1 This report is written within the context of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2015 – 2020 and the requirements of the people of Barnet for a seamless service that takes into account their changing needs. The Healthy Child Programme is a national model for health visiting and school nursing and places them with a lead role in the delivery and coordination of care for children and families

5.5. **Social Value**

5.5.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires people who commission certain public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits.

5.5.2 The Healthy Child Programme ensures an efficient health and wellbeing service for children and families whilst delivering benefits to individuals in a coordinated fashion. The programme also includes supporting parents and young people when they need it and providing the right amount of advice to individuals to develop the skills they need to make choices for their own well-being in the future. Services working together derive social capital from each other and this in turn supports a collaborative approach towards sustainability within an ever-changing economy.

5.6 **Risk Management**

5.6.1 Agreeing the extension with the current provider mitigates the risks to the Council of

ceasing the contract and not providing the services.

5.6.2 Having the current provider extend the contract for a further six months means business continuity and stability for staff and service users during and after the Coronavirus pandemic.

5.7 Equalities and Diversity

5.7.1 A Healthy Child Programme Board was established to oversee procurement and implementation of this service contract.

5.7.2 The Public Sector Equality Duty at section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 applies to local authorities who as public authorities must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the 2010 Act. As well as advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The protected characteristics are - age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.

5.7.3 The Healthy Child Programme is a universal service offered to all children and young people across the borough, with a specific focus on those who are from vulnerable families. Section 149 of the Act imposes a duty on 'public authorities' and other bodies when exercising public functions to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

5.8 Corporate Parenting

5.8.1 There are no implications for the London Borough of Barnet's corporate parenting responsibilities with this contract.

5.9 Consultation and Engagement

5.9.1 Previous reviews of the services have involved wide consultation with multi agency stakeholders including the consultant for public health; the clinical lead in the clinical commissioning group. A stakeholder reference group has met three times to discuss the new delivery model and recommend how it could be improved and embedded into Barnet. This reference group has included a community paediatrician; voluntary sector representatives; early help and children centre managers as well as members of the early years and public health nursing teams.

5.9.2 A service user and stakeholder feedback exercise was completed in March 2018 with a total of 449 respondents to the online and paper questionnaires. Responses were compiled into a report and were used to direct the remodelling of the services delivery

5.9.3 Due to the timescale of the unsuccessful procurement process and the need to ensure business continuity urgently, no consultation has taken place around the previous one year extension.

5.9.4 A commissioner led service user and stakeholder feedback exercise is currently open online, it currently has a poor low response rate which is attributed to the pandemic and the need to complete online. Assuming the response rate improves these results will be available to influence the future decisions regarding the service offer post pandemic.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 Policy & Resources Committee February 2018 – Item 10, Public health nursing
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g8742/Printed%20minutes%2013th-Feb-2018%2019.00%20Policy%20and%20Resources%20Committee.pdf?T=1>

6.2 Line 272 of the Annual Procurement Forward Plan agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee [Appendix 1 Annual Procurement Forward Plan 202122.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

6.3 Chief officer decision 21 May 2019



Chief Officer Decision
HCP _ PHN services V

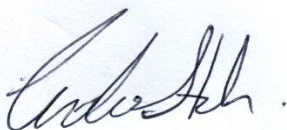
6.4 Delegated powers report 15 July 2019
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7314>

6.5 Chief Officer in consultation with Chairman Delegated Powers report published 12.12.2019
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7422>

6.6 Chief Officer in consultation with Chairman Delegated Power report published 23.4.2020
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7482>

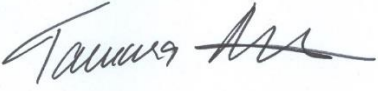
Chairman:
Has been consulted

Signed



Date 12/04/2021

Chief Officer:
Decision maker having taken into account the views of the Chairman



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tanya A.", is centered within a light blue rectangular box.

Signed

Date 12/04/202

